



NORTH CAROLINA SENTENCING AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION

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How much has North Carolina's crime rate decreased?

The standard definition of crime rates, accepted nationwide, refers to the number of crimes reported to the police, per 100,000 population (of the jurisdiction reported on, *e.g.* the US or NC). North Carolina's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which is part of the FBI's UCR system, collects data on crimes reported to the police. A summary of this information is reported annually by the Department of Justice in their *Crime in North Carolina* report (<http://crimereporting.ncdoj.gov/public/2011/ASR/2011%20Annual%20Summary.pdf>).

The following table presents the most recent ten-year trend (CY 2002-2011) for North Carolina's index crime rate (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson). The crime rate (*i.e.*, the number of crimes adjusted to population) decreased in the ten years by 18.2% (from a rate of 4,790.8 to a rate of 3,919.8). When examining the past ten years as two five-year periods, there was a 2.8% decrease in the crime rate between 2002-2006 and a 15.9% decrease in the crime rate between 2007- 2011. There also has been a decline in the overall number of arrests for index and non-index crimes, with a 3% decrease in adult arrests from 2010 to 2011.

North Carolina Index Crime Offenses and Clearances Statewide
Ten Year Trend (2002-2011)

Year	Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)
2002	4,790.8
2003	4,728.5
2004	4,638.7
2005	4,622.4
2006	4,654.4
2007	4,658.6
2008	4,580.1
2009	4,190.8
2010	3,955.3
2011	3,919.8

SOURCE: NC Department of Justice State Bureau of Investigation: Crime in North Carolina – 2011, Annual Summary Report of 2011 Uniform Crime Reporting Data